



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

is a chimpanzee, a *Colobus guereza*, two examples of *Galago demidoffi*, the flying squirrel *Anomalurus pusillus* n. sp., and a new coney *Dendrohyrax emini* Thomas. Fourteen of these species have not before been recorded outside of the West-African region, and Emin Pasha has therefore extended their known range a thousand or twelve hundred miles.

ENTOMOLOGY.¹

A NEW ENTOMOLOGICAL JOURNAL.—The first number of an entomological journal bearing the title *Insect Life* has just been sent out from the Division of Entomology of the United States Department of Agriculture. This journal is “devoted to the economy and life-habits of insects,—especially in their relations to agriculture,—and is edited by the entomologist and his assistants, with the sanction of the Commissioner of Agriculture.” We are glad to welcome this periodical, for we believe it will be an exceedingly useful one. As the writer knows from personal experience, a vast amount of interesting matter accumulates in the office of the entomologist, and is buried there simply because the individual items do not seem of sufficient importance to be published in the formal reports of the department. It often happens, also, that results of considerable scientific interest are obtained, the practicable application of which cannot be seen at the time. Naturally, a government entomologist hesitates to publish such results in a report intended primarily for agriculturists. The pages of *Insect Life* will form an appropriate receptacle for all data of this kind. It will, also, enable the entomologist to publish promptly matter of ephemeral interest which would lose its value if kept for the annual report.

The present number contains several articles of considerable interest in addition to a large number of minor notes. We have only a single criticism to offer upon *Insect Life* as represented by the initial number. We regret to see in it an article of the nature of the one entitled *New Species of Oncocnemis*. This article consists of the technical description of five species of moths. In four

¹This department is edited by Professor J. H. Comstock, Cornell University, Ithaca, N. Y., to whom communications, books for notice, etc., should be sent.

cases the description is based upon a single specimen ; in the fifth upon but three. The species are from Utah, Colorado, and Nevada county, California. Although the descriptions appear to be very carefully written, and doubtless are excellent ones if it is possible to prepare good descriptions of species from unique examples, still, what is the occasion for publishing these descriptions here ? Is it not about time that the serious workers in entomology should abandon the practice of publishing isolated descriptions except where there is a necessity for the description ; as, for examples, in articles describing the life-habits of the species in question ? We can see the reason for the description of *Lestophomus iceryea*, a parasite of cottony cushion scale which has been artificially introduced into California from Australia.

In form *Insect Life* has the appearance of the bulletins which have been sent out by the Division of Entomology, the size of the page and the type being the same. It is to be published on an average once a month, but will not have the regularity of a regular monthly.

PREVENTION OF CURCULIO INJURY TO CHERRIES BY ARSENICAL POISONS.—During the last two years we have heard it repeatedly asserted by fruit growers that curculio injury can be largely prevented by spraying the trees with Paris green or London purple. At first we were incredulous ; but the statement has been made so positively that we have said in reply to inquiries that it might be so but that we could not say in what way the poison acted, as the eggs of the curculio are laid beneath the surface of the fruit and out of the way of anything which might be sprayed upon the tree. We are glad to see that Mr. Clarence M. Weed has begun his work as Entomologist to the Ohio Agriculture Experiment Station by conducting careful experiments on this subject. The results are very striking. They seem to show so far as the results of a single season's work with a single variety of cherries can be relied upon: "That three-fourths of the cherries liable to injury by the plum Curculio can be saved by two or three applications of London purple in a water spray (in the proportion of one ounce to five gallons of water) made soon after the blossoms fall."

Two quarts of cherries from each of the lots experimented on were chemically examined at the time of ripening by Professor H. A. Weber and showed no trace of arsenic.

No explanation is made by Mr. Weed as to the way in which the poison acts. Whether the adult beetles are destroyed before they lay their eggs or whether the poison reaches the young larvæ.

REPORT OF THE U. S. ENTOMOLOGIST.—The annual report of the U. S. Agricultural Department has just come to hand. The report of the Entomologist, although containing less original material than some of the preceding ones, is a valuable one to agriculturists. The principal articles are one upon the Chinch-bug and one upon the Codlin-moth. These were prepared by Mr. Howard, and consist in each case of a résumé of the natural history of the insect and of the more important remedial measures. Although these articles contain little that is new, they will be very useful to agriculturists, as they render accessible information not easily obtained outside of an entomological library. In addition to these two articles the report consists of reports of special agents. The most striking of these is the one by Mr. D. W. Coquillett on *The Gas Treatment for Scale Insects*. One of the principal discoveries made by Mr. Coquillett is that hydrocyanic acid gas when passed through sulphuric acid is rendered harmless to the foliage of trees confined in it. This will greatly lessen the cost and labor of treating trees with this gas. The report is illustrated with figures of portable tents which are used for enclosing the trees while they are being treated.

ANTS AND APHIDS.—In the report of Mr. F. M. Webster¹ as special agent of the Department of Agriculture, we find account of some experiments upon the corn plant-louse (*Rhopalosiphum maidis*). After narrating several experiments clearly showing that the ants collect the plant-lice and carry them to the roots of the corn, Mr. Weber makes the following remarkable statement: "These observations led me to conclude Also that ants, of which three species attend these plant-lice, viz., *Lasius flabius*, *Formica schonfussii*, *F. fusca*, are not in the least responsible for their distribution over the fields. Although the protection which they offer them greatly increases their number and the amount of injury done in the corn-fields."

We do not think that the conclusions of Professor Forbes² can be set aside in this way. We can think of no more interesting subject for study than the working out of the relations which exist between these two kind of insects. Certainly aphids must receive more important results from the development of the highly specialized nectar-secreting apparatus than has been dreamed of till recently.

¹ Report of the Commissioner of Agriculture, 1887, p. 149.

² American Naturalist, Vol. xxi., pp. 382-579.